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April 30, 2010

The Honorable Barbara Madsen, Chief Justice
Washington State Supreme Court
415 12th Avenue SW
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Chief Justice Madsen:

I'm writing to inform the Court that the King County Bar Association supports the proposed change to the Code of Judicial Conduct (CJC 2.11(A)(4)) concerning recusal related to judicial campaign spending.

Founded in 1886, KCBA is the largest voluntary bar association in the state of Washington, representing over 14,000 attorneys in King County including attorneys, judges, and law professors. Our mission is to support our diverse membership by promoting a just, collegial, and accessible legal system and profession; working with the judiciary to achieve excellence in the administration of justice; and serving our local community through organized pro bono legal services.

Based on a recommendation from our Appellate Law Section and after their own deliberation, KCBA's Board of Trustees voted in favor of the proposed change to the CJC. The rule would require a judge to recuse upon motion by a party showing that an adverse party has provided financial support to the judge's judicial campaigns, based on formula related to the contribution limits established by RCW 42.17.

KCBA urges the Court to adopt the proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew J. Prazuch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Prazuch" clearly visible.

Andrew J. Prazuch
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Washington State Supreme Court